

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 06741 261441Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SNM-02 /025 W
-----262158Z 125003 /66
R 261341Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4317

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FOR EUR/SOV AND S/NM

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR SNAR UR
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS :ARTICLE IN AL-AKHBAR

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION DEA HQS WASHDC INFO ANKARA PARIS DEA
DALLAS REG OFC DEAL DEL RIO DIST OFC AND MOSCOW APRIL 21 REPEATED
FOR YOUR INFO:

CAIRO 6741

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJECT: UD-76-0009 MOHAMED IBRAHIM KHALIFE

AMEMBASSIES FOR DEA

DEL RIO ATTN: S/A MICHAEL HOLM

REF: CAIRO 6194 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF ARTICLE WHICH
APPEARED IN LEADING CAIRO DAILY AL-AKHBAR ON APRIL 19:

"WAR AGAINST "NARCOTCS EMPIRE" CONTINUED FOR THREE YEARS BETWEEN
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 06741 261441Z

THE MOST DANGEROUS SMUGGLER AZIZ KHALIFE ALIAS "AL PASHA"
AN THE EGYPTIAN ANTI-NARCOTICS ADMINISTRATION (ANA). ANA WAS
FORCED TO SEEK ASSISTANCE OF AN AMERICAN OFFICER FROM THE
DRUGE ENFORCEMENT AGENCY. THIS TOOK PLACE WHEN MAMDUH SALEM WAS
MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND IT WAS AGREED AT THAT TIME THAT THE
AMERICAN DEA SEND ONE OF ITS OFFICERS TO CAIRO TO PLAY THE ROLE
OF A DIPLOMAT AT THE US EMBASSY IN CAIRO SO AS TO WIN THE

CONFIDENCE OF "AL PASHA" WHO WOULD THEN ASK HIM TO SMUGGLE NARCOTICS THROUGH THE DIPLOMATIC PARCELS SENT TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY.

AL PASHA, WHO HAD AN OFFICE FOR EXPORTS AND CLEARANCE IN ALEXANDRIA, MANAGED TO ESTABLISH CONNECTIONS WITH SOME OF PERSONEEL IN COMMUNIST EMBASSIES INCLUDING THE SOVIET, KOREAN AND RUMANIAN EMBASSIES AND HE ATTENDED TO CLEARANCE OF PARCELS SENT TO THESE EMBASSIES

SOME YEARS AGO THE SECURITY MEN LEARNED THAT SOME OF SOVIET EMBASSY PARCELS CONTAINED NARCOTICS AND ARMS AND THESE PARCELS WERE SEIZED BUT THE CASE WAS SHELVED BECAUSE THE SOVIET EMBASSY SUBMITTED A DECLARATION BY SENDER THAT MISTAKE WAS COMMITTED IN SHIPPING THE PARCELS.

IT TOOK MORE THAN A YEAR TO CATCH AL PASHA RED HANDED. ABOUT HALF A TON OF NARCOTICS WAS FOUND IN HIS POSSESSION. TWO MONTHS AGO HE WAS SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

THE SECURITY AUTHORITIES THOUGHT THAT THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN PUTTING AN END TO THE SMUGGLING OF NARCOTICS, BUT HASHISH AND OPIUM WERE QUICKLY REPLACED BY TWO KINDS OF DRUGGING TABLETS "PHANTOM" AND "SKYHAWK".

INVESTIGATIONS REVEALED THAT THESE TABLETS WERE PRODUCED BY A JEW CALLED ALBERT SHAMMAS IN SWITZERLAND. THE EGYPTIAN SECURITY MEN MANAGED TO ARREST THE GANG WHICH SELLS THESE TABLETS IN EGYPT." END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 06741 261441Z

2. COMMENT: ANA DIRECTOR FARAG TOLD POLCOUNS HE HAD ONLY CANNED ARTICLE BUT WAS VERY DISTURBED BY MENTION OF USE OF DEA AGENT POSING AS AMERICAN DIPLOMAT TO BREAK THIS VERY IMPORTANT CASE. IN HIS VIEW THIS COMPROMISED ANA'S ABILITY TO MAKE USE OF DEA AGENTS IN AN UNDERCOVER CAPACITY IN THE FUTURE SINCE NARCOTICS SMUGGLERS CLOSELY FOLLOW ANY SUCH PRESS REPORTS. FARAG SAID IMMEDIATELY UPON READING ARTICLE HE TELEPHONED EDITOR OF AKHBAR AND STRONGLY REPRIMANDED HIM FOR PRINTING THE STORY. THE EDITOR SAID HE HAD GOTTEN ALL THE INFORMATION FROM THE COURT RECORDS. FARAG DID NOT COMMENT ON SOVIET ASPECTS OF ARTICLE SINCE HE HAD NOT READ FULL TEXT. SIGNED EILTS.

UNQUOTE.

EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DRUG CONTROL
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770145-0837
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
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Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770420/aaaaaqth.tel
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 CAIRO 6194
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2698196
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS :ARTICLE IN AL-AKHBAR FOLLOWING SENT ACTION DEA HQS WASHDC INFO ANKARA PARIS DEA DALLAS REG OFC
DEAL DEL RIO DIST OFC AND MOSCOW AP
TAGS: PFOR, SNAR, UR, EG, (KHALIFE, MOHAMED IBRAHIM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/35a51c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009